

Highlights In This Report

July Livestock Slaughter
U.S. & Delta States Farm Labor & Wage Rates
Average Prices Received by Farmers
U.S. Rice Stocks

Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during July totaled 1.1 million pounds, unchanged from June but 8 percent below the previous year.

There were 1,200 head of **cattle** slaughtered during July, 100 head above June but 100 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 849 pounds, down 12 pounds from the previous month but 23 pounds above July 2002. Total live weight, at 991,000 pounds, was 6 percent above the previous month, but 8 percent below the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during July totaled 800 head, unchanged from June and the previous year. Live weight averaged 498 pounds, down 1 pound from June and a year ago. Total live weight, at 412,000 pounds, was unchanged from June but 7 percent above the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during July totaled 1,400 head, down 400 head from the previous month and from July 2002. Average live weight was 202 pounds, up 6 pounds from June but 7 pounds below the previous year. Total live weight was 275,000 pounds, 21 percent below June and 28 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during July was 200 head, up 100 head from June but the same as the previous year. Live weight averaged 72 pounds, down 10 pounds from the previous month and 4 pounds below the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.05 billion pounds in July, a new monthly high, up 1 percent from the 4.02 billion pounds produced in July 2002.

July 2002 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. July 2003 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays

Beef production, at 2.44 billion pounds, was slightly above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.29 million head, up 3 percent from July 2002. The average live weight was down 23 pounds from the previous year, at 1,225 pounds.

Veal production totaled 14.8 million pounds, 12 percent below July a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 84,900 head, down 11 percent from July 2002. The average live weight was 3 pounds below last year, at 288 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.58 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.10 million head, slightly above July 2002. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 262 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.7 million pounds, was down 4 percent from July 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 239,200 head, 8 percent below last year. The average live weight was 131 pounds, up 5 pounds from July a year ago.

January to July 2003 commercial red meat production was 27.1 billion pounds, up slightly from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down slightly from last year; veal was up 2 percent; pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 10 percent.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Meat Production

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	June	July		Jan - July		July		Jan - July	
	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
-----Number, thousand head-----									
Cattle	1.1	1.3	1.2	9.5	8.4	3,187.7	3,285.3	20,755.5	21,100.1
Calves	0.8	0.8	0.8	5.2	5.4	95.8	84.9	570.4	576.4
Hogs	1.8	1.8	1.4	15.6	14.1	8,068.3	8,101.9	56,496.1	56,612.1
Sheep & Lambs	0.1	0.2	0.2	1.6	1.2	259.0	239.2	1,894.5	1,713.0
-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----									
Cattle	933	1,072	991	8,169	7,368	3,978,539	4,024,014	25,760,908	25,959,856
Calves	414	385	412	2,610	2,746	27,862	24,486	181,809	185,679
Hogs	349	384	275	3,355	2,961	2,101,546	2,125,365	15,019,202	15,086,554
Sheep & Lambs	12	13	12	146	115	32,712	31,236	256,302	228,988
-----Average live weight, pounds-----									
Cattle	861	826	849	860	877	1,248	1,225	1,241	1,231
Calves	499	499	498	502	509	291	288	319	322
Hogs	196	209	202	215	210	260	262	266	266
Sheep & Lambs	82	76	72	91	96	126	131	135	134
-----Million pounds-----									
Red meat	1.1	1.2	1.1	9.4	8.6	4,016.5	4,046.1	27,007.2	27,059.6

Farm Labor & Wage Rates: Delta and United States

Item	Delta ¹			United States		
	July 2002	April 2003	July 2003	July 2002	April 2003	July 2003
Hired Workers (All)	37	31	25	1,262	938	1,273
Ag Service Workers	---	---	---	256	157	320
Hired Farm Workers	37	31	25	1,006	781	953
150 Days or More	26	25	18	723	619	678
149 Days or Less	11	6	7	283	162	275
Average Hours Worked (Hired Farm Workers)	36.9	43.1	38.8	40.0	40.1	40.0
Average Wage Rate (Hired Farm Workers)	\$7.07	\$7.63	\$7.70	\$8.57	\$9.16	\$8.88
By Type of Worker						
Field	\$6.70	\$7.20	\$7.13	\$7.90	\$8.40	\$8.18
Livestock	\$7.10	\$7.54	\$8.03	\$8.38	\$8.75	\$8.62

¹Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

---Data not published.

Delta States Farm Labor

Farm labor estimates are made for the combined Delta states: Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. The Delta states had 25,000 hired workers on farms and ranches during the week of July 6-12, 2003, down 32 percent from July 2002. Of the 25,000 hired workers, workers who work 150 days or more a year accounted for 72 percent of the total, and workers who work 149 days or fewer account for the remaining 28 percent.

The average wage rate in the Delta states for all hired farm workers was \$7.70 per hour compared to \$7.07 per hour in July 2002. Delta states hired farm workers averaged \$1.18 per hour less than the average U. S. hired farm worker. Livestock workers earned \$8.03 per hour compared to \$7.10 per hour a year earlier. Field workers were earning \$7.13, or 43 cents more per hour this July, than last July.

The average numbers of hours worked, at 38.8 hours per week, was 1.2 hours less per week than the current U.S. average of 40.0 hours per week.

United States Farm Labor

There were 1.27 million hired workers on the nation's farms and ranches the week of July 6-12, 2003, up 1 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 953,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 320,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$8.88 per hour during the July 2003 reference week, up 31 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.18 per hour, up 28 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$8.62 per hour compared with \$8.38 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.28 per hour, was up 26 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 40.0 hours for hired workers during the survey week, unchanged from a year ago.

Average Prices Received By Farmers

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	August	July	August	August	July	August
	2002	2003	2003 ¹	2002	2003	2003 ¹
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	5.51	2/	2/	5.53	5.83	5.56
Rice, per cwt	3.77	5.32	5.68	3.71	5.09	5.40
Upland Cotton, per pound	.287	.466	3/ .436	.330	.461	3/ .440
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	92.40	89.00	85.30
Beef Cattle, per cwt	47.80	54.60	55.20	64.40	75.80	78.50
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	70.30	80.20	81.00	67.30	78.80	81.70
Cows, per cwt	36.20	41.40	40.00	36.40	44.90	44.80
Calves, per cwt	85.00	93.60	91.00	94.90	103.00	105.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.290	.360	.370
Eggs, all, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.611	.697	.785
Milk, all, per cwt ⁴	n/a	n/a	n/a	11.30	12.00	13.00

¹Mid-month.

²Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms.

³Preliminary prices are based on sales during the first half of the month.

⁴Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.
n/a = Not Available

Prices Received Index Up From Last Month

The Preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by farmers in August is 108, based on 1990-92=100, up 2.9 percent from the July index. Since last month both the All Crops Index and the Livestock and Products Index show increases. Higher prices for wheat, dairy, cattle and lettuce more than offset lower prices for grapes, cantaloupes, soybeans and hogs. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of tobacco, cattle, grapes and sweet corn more than offset decreased marketings of wheat, hay, dairy and broilers.

This preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 8.0 percent from August, 2002. Higher prices for cattle, broilers, hogs and tomatoes more than offset lower prices for corn, wheat, hay and turkeys.

The Food Commodities Index also increased 4.8 percent above last month to 109, and is 12.4 percent above August last year.

Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The August Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates is 127 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is unchanged from July but 2.4 percent above August 2002. Lower prices in August for feeder pigs, hay and forages, nitrogen fertilizers and LP gas were offset by higher prices for feeder cattle, diesel fuel, gasoline and feed supplements.

United States Rice Stocks

Date	On Farms or Farm Warehouses	In Mills and Attached Warehouses	In Warehouses not Attached to Mills	In Ports or In Transit	Total all Positions
(Domestic Units - 1,000 Cwt)					
<u>Rough Rice</u>					
March 1, 2003	27,505	11,869	61,514	1,690	102,578
August 1, 2003	1,225	5,749	13,080	17	20,071
<u>Milled Rice</u>					
March 1, 2003	----	4,494	110	2,023	6,627
August 1, 2003	----	3,783	54	737	4,574

United States Rice Stocks Down

Rough rice stocks in all positions on August 1, 2003, totaled 20.1 million hundred weight (cwt), down 37 percent from the total on August 1, 2002. Stocks held on farms totaled 1.23 million cwt and off-farm stocks totaled 18.8 million cwt. Long grain varieties accounted for 58 percent of the total rough rice, medium grain accounted for 39 percent and short grain varieties accounted for 3 percent.

Milled rice stocks in all positions totaled 4.57 million cwt, 7 percent below the comparable figure a year ago. Milled rice stocks were comprised of 3.34 million cwt of whole kernel rice and 1.23 million cwt of second heads, screenings and brewers rice.

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